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BOOK REVIEWS

AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

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AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, COLORADO BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Britling Sees It Through. By *H. G. Wells*. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1916. 443 p. \$1.50.

The war came to Matching's Easy, where there are half a dozen old people who have never seen London and have no wish to do so; and to Mr. Britling, who was recognized in two continents as a broad-minded and shrewd writer on international subjects—"He had ideas in the utmost profusion about races and empires and social order and political institutions and gardens and automobiles and the future of India and China and æsthetics and America and the education of mankind in general. . . . And all that sort of thing." The war brought many strange things to this quiet spot, so characteristic of so many quiet spots in the United States (if you change the local color a bit), and to this broad-minded and enquiring spirit, so characteristic of broad-minded and enquiring spirits in this country, who still write and talk, rather easily, about "all that sort of thing." And the war did for them what it may be hoped something other than war may do for us—it narrowed down but greatly extended the range of vision; it taught such obvious truths as that some Belgians drink, and some of them are not quite moral, and some of them are singularly vindictive in spirit; that war is a thing, today, disgusting to the soldier, though often admired at home; that, with good fortune, one can go through malignity, hostility, and hatred, and come out at the other side into an understanding that where two fight, two are to blame, and were to blame before the fight began; that, somehow, despite all its tremendous horror and havoc, war is a feeble, trivial, ephemeral thing, and that "above the battle" one may see the strong, mighty, permanent gentleness and friendliness that were in men's hearts ever, still persisting, outliving torture and suppression, regnant when war is dead. All of this and much else that is human, delightfully comic, soberly tragic and appealing, Mr. Wells makes clear in a narrative startlingly "up-to-date." It is human history written "on the firing-line"—that remarkable sort of instantaneous analysis with which his readers are already familiar, but here displayed more strikingly than ever before.

The Problems and Lessons of the War. Clark University Addresses, delivered December 16, 17, and 18, 1915. Edited by *George H. Blakeslee*, with a Foreword by *G. Stanley Hall*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1916. 381 p. \$2.00.

"It seems to me that the main thing in view of all these stupendous problems in this country is for us to keep our poise and make real neutrality our religion; to insist upon a judicial attitude; to always hear the other side; to be ready not only to learn of the side to which our sympathies run counter, but to study, to appreciate this point of view." These words of President Hall aptly introduce this collection of widely, and often wildly, contrasting views set forth in the series of public addresses delivered at Clark University a year ago through the instrumentality of Professor Blakeslee. These fall under the general headings of "Preparedness" (with Norman Angell, George Haven Putnam, Congressman Bailey, and Dr. Ira N. Hollis on the same platform), "Economic Aspects," "Proposals for Restricting or Eliminating War," "The Test of War," and miscellaneous subjects—twenty-four expressions of opinion, at least a few of which will prove healthily echinate for the most open-minded reader. Important papers are Dr. Krehbiel's study of Nationalism, Roger W. Babson's analysis of the economic causes of war, the defense of Germany by Dr. Walz, of Harvard, and the explanation of the purposes of the British Union of Democratic Control, by the Hon. Francis Nelson, M. P.

The Case of John Smith: His Heaven and Hell. By *Elizabeth Bisland*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1916. 244 p. \$1.25.

One rather envies *John Smith*. He learns so much so easily! His first bit of knowledge is that the world is his,

all of it, to share with his 1,628,889,999 friends. This sudden inheritance naturally stirs within him considerable concern as to the extent and diversity of his property and what is being done with it. Here a genial familiar comes to his service and shows him many things—Europe, Japan, war and peace, earth and sea and all that in them is, the heavens, the empyrean itself. Hand in hand with the *Spirit of Understanding* he strolls through the universe, amid star-dust and planetary motes dancing in infinity. And, as simply as little *Rollo* promenading with his Uncle, he learns the moral lessons that lurk accusingly behind each spectacle. He goes back to the beginnings of the world—"vague, formless, fantastic, jellied life crawled up from the waters, sprawled blind, indefinite, and formless in the weltering ooze." It is rather good fun touring Time and Space with *John Smith*. Unfortunately, this does not continue. Less simple souls intrude. The reader finds himself slipping from a jolly H-G-Wellsian tale into an exposition of a cosmic philosophy that in spots is edifyingly dismal. But there is a breath of spaciousness in the author's theme, and new summaries of the universe are worth attention when so painstakingly presented. The reader is urged to array himself in all the fragments of naiveté he still possesses and go make the acquaintance of *John Smith*.

Their True Faith and Allegiance. By *Gustavus Ohlinger*. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1916. 124 p. 50 cts.

This little book is a determined and detailed attack upon the National German-American Alliance, or the Prussian in America. If such works are helpful, this should be helpful indeed, since it is a veritable compendium of fact and evidence that it would be difficult to confute or deny. But its helpfulness is doubtful. It will not help us to learn to hate the German-American; he must be amalgamated—not devoured alive. And as it is extremely difficult to read Mr. Ohlinger's analysis of German-American propaganda without hating the Alliance and the other "Truth Societies" that have been initiated by it, possibly it were better to read something else. Should the reader attempt it, however, he is urged to fortify himself with Owen Wister's Preface as antidote. This bitter and unreasoning diatribe against all Germany north of Bavaria renders anything in the nature of fact and calm assertion quite unimpressive.

Ethics of Democracy. By *Louis F. Post*. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. 374 p. Price, \$1.50.

This is the third edition of a series of essays appearing first in 1903. Chapters are arranged under such headings as The Democratic Optimist, Individual Life, Business Life, Economic Tendencies and Principles, Democratic Government, and Patriotism. The spirit of the book is illustrated by the author's last sentence in his Preface: "The ephemeral powers of Might go down before the eternal laws of Right."

Towards an Enduring Peace. A Symposium of Peace Proposals and Programs, 1914-1916. Compiled by *Randolph S. Bourne*. Introduction by *Franklin H. Giddings*. American Association for International Conciliation. New York. 336 p.

This is a chowder of articles made up of divergent morsels from distant seas. A list of peace proposals and programs are dumped into a side basin called Appendix. Anyone can partake of any of the morsels without serious injury to his digestion or to his soul.

Japanese Law of Nationality. Compiled by *Dr. Gilbert Bowles*. Through an error this pamphlet was listed in these columns recently as "Japanese Law of Neutrality." It may be obtained, as also a uniform pamphlet entitled **Land Tenure by Foreigners in Japan**, on application to Dr. Bowles, 30 Koun Cho, Mita, Tokyo, Japan.